

ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1942

BY
G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S.

TOGETHER WITH
The Report
OF
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Members of the Council

Chairman :

R. J. MACNAUGHTON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

T. H. COCHRANE

Members :

G. I. BREW

H. T. A. DASHWOOD, M.A., J.P.

REV. CANON A. R. T. EALES, M.A.

SIR PERCY EVERETT

MRS. A. M. R. HOOPER

A. McL. NIVEN, J.P.

W. G. TAYLER

Medical Officer of Health :

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector :

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Clerks :

MISS D. L. HOUGHTON

J. S. RUCK

Public Health Department :

11 Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my annual report on the health of the district for the year 1942.

The same need for curtailment prevails as in previous years and the report has been prepared on the lines of the Minister of Health's recommendations.

Those statistics which are permitted to be included in the following pages tell their own story, and I will content myself with commenting briefly on subjects in which the public have shown special interest during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The position at the close of the year was that roughly 70% of the children under 15 in the district had completed the full course of immunisation. Parents of the remaining children were circularised at the end of the year.

SCABIES

Arrangements have now been completed for the treatment of scabies at the First Aid Post, and with the co-operation of local medical practitioners the scheme is working very satisfactorily.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were sixteen new cases during the year as against 19 in 1941, 9 in 1940 and 15 in 1939.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY

The incidence of scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough was satisfactorily low compared with the previous year. For the third time only during the past 15 years there was not a single case of diphtheria during the year under review.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. WINN EVERETT,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,339 acres
Population, 1921 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,513
Population, 1931 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,400
Registrar-General's estimate of								
(a) resident population mid-1942	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to Rate Books	...							
		Elstree	1,936					
		Shenley	548					
		Ridge	75					
Rateable Value (1st April, 1943)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£123,444
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st April, 1943)								£470

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Vide Annual Report for 1939.

VITAL STATISTICS

						Total	M.	F.
Live Births	{ Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	*
	{ Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	*
	Birth Rate:	17.2	per 1,000	estimated resident population mid-1942				
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*
	Rate:	43.2	per 1,000	total (live and still) births.				
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*
	Death Rate:	10.0	per 1,000	estimated average population.				

The Death Rates for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of London respectively are given as 11.6 and 13.9 per 1,000 population.

* Information not to be published—Circular 2604 of the Ministry of Health, 24th March, 1942.

Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
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Deaths from puerperal causes:—

Puerperal sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil
Total	...	...	Nil

Death rates of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	50.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	42.4		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	166.7			

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	—

SECTIONS B, C, D, and E

Sections B to E dealing respectively with general provision of health services for the area, sanitary circumstances of the area, housing and food inspection have been omitted from my report as there is nothing noteworthy to add to the details given on pages 8 to 11 of my report for 1939. Statistics which fall within the purview of these sections are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, which opens on page 7.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There were 15 cases of Scarlet Fever all of which occurred in private households, and were removed to Hospital.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year.:

Disease	Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	15	15	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—
Measles ...	143	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	31	1	1
Pneumonia ...	7	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	—

Age-Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65
Scarlet Fever ...	1		2		3	8			1	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...							1		1		
Erysipelas ...								1	1	1	1
Measles ...	2	8	10	13	16	88	5		1		
Whooping Cough ...	3	6	4	5	2	10	1		2	1	1
Pneumonia ...				1	1	1					
Poliomyelitis ...		1									

Tuberculosis—New cases and mortality during 1942.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5-10 ...								
10-15 ...								
15-20 ...		2						
20-25 ...		2			1			
25-30 ...	1	5						
30-35 ...		1						
35-45 ...	1	1						
65 and up ...	1	1						
TOTALS ...	3	12		1	2	2		

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

So close is the resemblance between this report and those of previous years that my comments on any of them would be equally at home on this page, introducing my Annual Report for 1942.

I hope it is not to the detriment of either that my interests are still divided between public health and civil defence duties. *To everything there is a season*, we read, *And a time to every purpose under the heaven*. With this precept in my mind I have tried to attend to my wartime duties when necessary, and have turned to normal commitments when occasion has permitted. The fact that at any one time I can do only one thing or the other, if I am to do justice to either, deserves all the emphasis which can be given to it.

My colleagues, who face the same difficulties, have never failed to afford me their full co-operation, and I am especially indebted to the Surveyor, who 'held the fort' for me during a period of sick leave at the close of the year.

Although my fourth Annual Report is slightly more austere even than its predecessors, I confess that I submit it with pride, and I count it a privilege to express again my whole-hearted thanks for your continued confidence and support.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. S. BLACKHALL,

Sanitary Inspector.

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

DETAILS OF INTIMATION AND STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Intimation Notices

Nature of Defects					No. of Notices served
General housing defects including leaking roofs, dampness, defective plaster, floors, windowframes, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	17
Absence of necessary information in rent books (Sections 4 and 62 of the Housing Act 1936)	...	...	...	...	8
Drainage	...	...	...	...	14
Defective w.c. connections	...	...	...	...	3
Absence of, or dilapidated dustbins	...	...	...	...	3
Choked and insanitary water courses	...	...	...	...	2
Filthy and verminous premises	...	...	...	...	4
Insufficient water supply	...	...	...	...	4
Waste of water (referred to the Colne Valley Water Board)					2
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	1
Improper keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	1
Dairies and cowsheds...	...	...	...	...	13
Food Preparers	...	...	...	...	1
Factories and Offices ...	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/>
					TOTAL 74
					<hr/>

Statutory Notices

Nature of Defects	Statute	No. of Notices served	No. of Houses affected
Nuisances ...	Section 93 Public Health Act, 1936	3	3
Defective w.c. ...	Section 44 Public Health Act, 1936	1	1
Dilapidated dustbins ...	Section 75 Public Health Act, 1936	1	1

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN PURSUANCE
OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

							No. of Houses
Repairs to plastering and woodwork	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Window frames repaired and sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Leaking roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
External brickwork repointed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dirty rooms redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cooking ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Adequate water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains cleared and drainage systems repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
W.c. and sink connections repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Paving to yards and passages repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water courses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisance from the keeping of animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds and dairies limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cowshed approaches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food preparers' premises improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Verminous houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

Number of accredited milk producers	...	...	...	...	12
Number of tuberculin tested milk producers	...	...	...	...	2
Number of other producers	...	...	...	...	10
Number of retail purveyors	...	...	...	...	20

During the year 188 inspections were made of cowsheds, dairies and milkshops. Sixteen samples of designated milk were taken from purveyors within the district of which ten satisfied the standard imposed by the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	5	73	20	44	356
Number inspected	5	73	20	44	356
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	9	—	2	1
Percentage (of the number inspected) affected with disease (other than tuberculosis) ...		12.3		6.8	0.3
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	10	—	—	12
Percentage (of the number inspected) affected with tuberculosis	...	13.7	—	—	3.4

HOUSING

Summary of action taken

Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	... 20
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Action under Statutory Powers During the Year

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">... 2</td> </tr> </table>	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	2												
... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2	... 2														
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">(a) By owners</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">... 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">(b) By local authority in default of owners</td> <td style="text-align: right;">... 1</td> </tr> </table>	(a) By owners	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	(b) By local authority in default of owners	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	1
(a) By owners	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1														
(b) By local authority in default of owners	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1	... 1														